watershed focus
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Fall 2002 / Winter 2003

what's in focus

DEP ACCELERATES PLAN TO CURTAIL FLOW OF POLLUTION INTO NEW JERSEY'S WATERWAYS

In September, DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell announced an aggressive plan of action to reduce pollution in New Jersey's lakes and rivers with impaired water quality by curbing existing pollution sources and setting stricter limits on the amount of pollution going into waterways across the state.

DEP and EPA have signed a memorandum of agreement that formalizes New Jersey's commitment to establish pollution limits or Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the state's impaired waterbodies. To date, only eight TMDLs have been established by the state over the past three years. Under the new agreement, the DEP will establish 159 TMDLs by July 31, 2003.

"Our agreement with EPA strengthens New Jersey's position as a leader among states complying with the Clean Water Act and benefiting from its environmental safeguards," said Commissioner Campbell. "I am grateful to EPA's Regional Administrator Jane Kenny and her Deputy Bill Muszynski for working effectively with the Department to bring about this agreement."

As per the agreement, EPA will provide DEP programmatic and legal guidance, financial support via grants and contracts, and technical assistance with the TMDL program implementation.

Under the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act, states must develop lists of waterways that do not meet minimum federal water quality standards. In addition, states

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The Wanaque Reservoir in Passaic County is one of several New Jersey Reservoirs recently classified as Category One under the State's new drinking water regulations. Turn to page 4 to find out more about these new regulations.

watershed *focus*

is a publication concentrating on watershed management, stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management issues in New Jersey. Send comments and subscription requests to:

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New Jersey's 5 Water Regions and 20 Watershed Management Areas

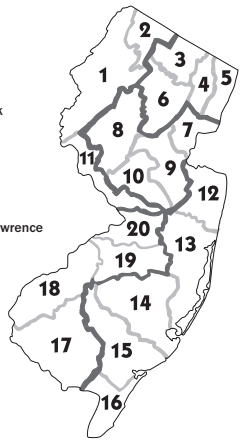
Northwest
(609) 633-3812
1. Upper Delaware
2. Walkill
11. Central Delaware

Northeast
(609) 633-1179
3. Pompton, Pequannock, Wanaque, Ramapo
4. Lower Passaic, Saddle
5. Hackensack, Hudson, Pascack
6. Upper & Middle Passaic, Whippany, Rockaway

Raritan
(609) 633-7020
7. Arthur Kill
8. North & South Branch Raritan
9. Lower Raritan, South River, Lawrence
10. Millstone

Atlantic Coastal
(609) 984-6888
12. Monmouth
13. Barnegat Bay
14. Mullica
15. Great Egg Harbor
16. Cape May

Lower Delaware
(609) 633-1441
17. Maurice, Salem, Cohansey
18. Lower Delaware
19. Rancocas
20. Assiscunk, Crosswicks, Doctors



NJ WATERWAYS

(continued from page 1)

must establish TMDLs for these impaired waterbodies, which specify the maximum amount of a pollutant that the impaired lake or river can receive and still meet water quality standards. A TMDL allocates pollutants among existing point and nonpoint sources and takes into consideration future growth, so that the total pollutant amount will not exceed the overall maximum limit set for each waterbody. By law, EPA must approve or disapprove impaired waterbody lists and TMDLs established by states.

Establishing maximum pollution limits helps ensure that New Jersey's lakes and rivers meet water quality standards. The state is also developing an implementation plan to reduce existing pollution sources. TMDLs are set for such pollutants as fecal coliform, PCMs, mercury, nickle, vinyl chloride, sediment and phosphorous, as well as targeted pollutants of concern for specific waterbodies.

The eight TMDLs currently established by New Jersey include: two segments of the Whippany River for fecal coliform; Strawbridge Lake for phosphorous; Sylvan Lake for phosphorous; two segments of the Hackensack for nickel; and two segments in the Delaware Estuary for volatile organic compounds, including 1, 2 dichloroethane and trichloroethene (TCE).

A list of the waterbodies for which TMDLs will be established and a copy of DEP's agreement with EPA are available on the DWM website.

Brochures Available!

To get your copy of the new "What's a Watershed?" brochure or the new Drought brochure call the NJDEP Public Access Center at 1-866-337-5669

New Director For DWM

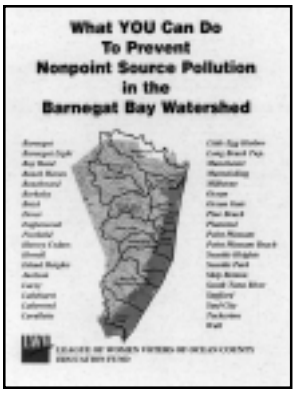
In September, Lawrence J. Baier was appointed as the new Director for the Division of Watershed Management. Baier has been with the Department since 1984, when he started with the Green Acres Program. Since 1987, Baier has worked with the Division of Coastal Resources and the Division of Land Use Regulation. Most recently, he has been the Chief of the Office of Dredging and Sediment Technology. DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell noted, "In this capacity, it has been my great pleasure to work with Larry on a broad range of issues, where he has impressed me with his sound judgement, tenacity, and ability to work effectively with stakeholder and government agencies with divergent interests."

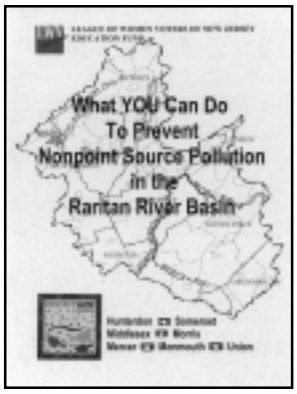
Baier has extensive experience in DEP regulatory programs, especially coastal planning and dredge material issues. He has concentrated on the Delaware and Harbor Estuary Programs, and was involved in the early days of the Barnegat Bay Management Plan. Baier has also worked to promote the use of innovative technology.

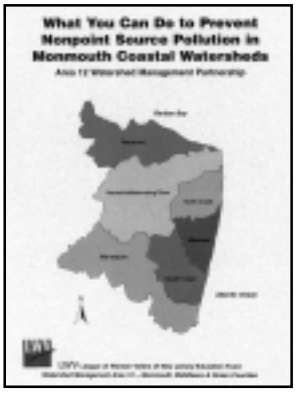
Baier is a consummate problem solver, a skill set that is perfectly suited to the current challenges of the watershed program.

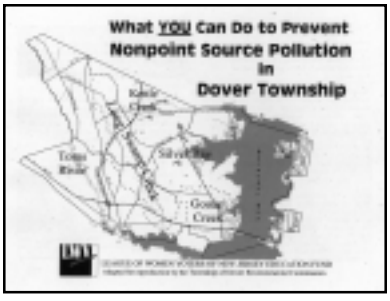
TEMPLATE NPS PREVENTION PUBLICATION

by Jan Larson









The League of Women Voters publication has been used by a number of different groups to educate the public about NPS.

In 1997, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection awarded a Watershed Management Grant to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey's Natural Resources Committee for public outreach education in the Raritan River Basin. In addition to conducting a conference and administering a mini-grant program with the funds, the NR Committee created an eight-page template booklet about nonpoint source pollution prevention. The publication subcommittee, spearheaded by Anne Zeman of the Princeton Area League, did extensive research in writing generic text for the publication that is user-friendly. The text is augmented with graphics that make the NPS "invisible trail" visible and the booklet gives citizens the tools/knowledge about how they can help protect water quality. It seeks to promote a "Think Globally, Act Locally" philosophy and lifestyle by increasing understanding of how one negative action weakens the whole watershed ecosystem, and it encourages specific positive actions that strengthen the system.

The League's NPS pollution prevention publication was designed so that it can be reproduced and used in other areas of the state. All that is needed is to change the map on the cover and the first paragraph describing your watershed on the inside cover, resulting in minimal typesetting and graphic layout expertise. These sections should be tailored to the specific target area where the booklet is to be distributed so those residents will identify with the topic. To date this template project has increased public awareness of NPS in several regions of New Jersey, including the Raritan River Basin, Manasquan Watershed and Dover Township in Ocean County. If your organization would like to reprint the NPS Pollution Prevention booklet, please call the League of Women Voters at (609) 394-3303. It's easy and it's effective. By educating the public, informing them of sources of NPS pollution and presenting solutions, you can help protect and enhance water quality.

NEW JERSEY DELIVERS ON EARTH DAY COMMITMENT TO PROTECT WATER RESOURCES

New Regulations to Protect Key Drinking Water Sources and Ecologically Important Waterways

This fall the McGreevey Administration reaffirmed its Earth Day pledge to safeguard New Jersey's critical drinking water sources and critical habitats for threatened and endangered species by announcing new regulations to upgrade 15 waterbodies to the highest level - Category One (C1) - of protection.

"These new regulations represent the State's first significant attempt to protect waters and endangered species through safeguarding New Jersey's existing high-quality drinking water supplies," McGreevey said.

Category One (C1) designation protects waterways from any discharge that produces a measurable change in the existing quality of the water. While the State's previous C1 designations were primarily extended to trout production streams, the regulations announced today extend those protections to nine reservoirs and six streams.

Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell acknowledged the progress New Jersey and the Nation have made since the Clean Water Act was signed thirty years ago on October 18, 1972. Commissioner Campbell called for continued vigilance to protect waterways as more residents and businesses rely on limited supplies of water in the decades ahead.

"It is only fitting, that at a time when we recognize previous generations' contributions to clean water protection, we renew New Jersey's commitment to protecting our valuable natural resources," said DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell. "At a time when the federal government is attempting to roll back clean water protections, New Jersey is once again, at Governor McGreevey's direction, establishing itself as an environmental leader."

"We must recognize that our waterways will not continuously supply us high quality drinking water or support sensitive and endangered species unless we take action now to ensure they are provided the highest level of protection we can offer," said McGreevey.

The nine reservoirs protected serve almost four million citizens - nearly half New Jersey's population. With New Jersey's population expected to grow by almost one million people in the next 20 years, the need for safe, plentiful water from these reservoirs will be even more critical.

In addition to safeguarding important supplies of drinking water, the protections also will help preserve water quality for streams and waterways serving as critical habitat for many of New Jersey's threatened and endangered species.

Over the next several months, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will identify another round of waterbodies for C1 protections and develop comprehensive standards for State waters that should receive this special designation. DEP Commissioner Campbell will also continue developing a broad range of initiatives promoting the Governor's policies for a clean water future.

The regulations announced were published in the November 18, 2002 New Jersey Register. Final rules will be signed only after a sixty-day public comment period affording the public the opportunity to provide input on these protections.
The nine reservoirs receiving protection under the proposed regulations include Doughty Reservoir (Atlantic City); Glendola Reservoir (Glendola); Manasquan Reservoir (Oak Glen); Boonton Reservoir (Boonton); Charlottesburg Reservoir (Charlottesburg); Oradell Reservoir (Oradell); Wanaque Reservoir (Passaic County); Round Valley Reservoir (Clinton); and Swimming River Reservoir (Red Bank).

The six streams receiving protection under the proposed regulations include a portion of Assiscunk Creek (Columbus); two portions of the Pequest River (Townsbury); Flat Brook (Flatbrook-Roy Wildlife Management Area); a portion of Beaver Brook (Annandale); South Branch Rockaway Creek (Clinton); and Sidney Brook (Grandin).

ROUND VALLEY RESERVOIR
Clinton Township, Hunterdon County
Round Valley is managed by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority and provides drinking water for residents of central New Jersey.

DOUGHTY RESERVOIR
Egg Harbor, Galloway, Absecon, Atlantic County
Doughty Reservoir is managed by the Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority and provides drinking water for residents of Atlantic City.

ORADELL RESERVOIR
Harrington Park, Closter, Haworth, Oradell, Bergen County
Oradell Reservoir is managed by United Water Resources and provides drinking water for residents of northeast New Jersey, including Bergen and Hudson counties.

CHARLOTTESBURG RESERVOIR
Rockaway, Morris County
Charlottesburg Reservoir is managed by the Newark City Water Department and provides drinking water for residents of northeast New Jersey, including Morris, Union, Passaic, and Essex counties.

BOONTON RESERVOIR
Boonton Township, Morris County
Boonton Reservoir is managed by the Jersey City Water Department and provides drinking water for residents of northeast New Jersey, including Essex, Passaic, and Hudson counties.

SWIMMING RIVER RESERVOIR
Colts Neck, Red Bank, Monmouth County
Swimming River Reservoir is managed by North Jersey American Water Company and provides drinking water for residents of Monmouth county.

GLENDOLA RESERVOIR
Wall, Glendola, Monmouth County
Glendola Reservoir is managed by New Jersey American, Monmouth Division and provides drinking water for residents of southeast New Jersey.

MANASQUAN RESERVOIR
Howell, Oak Glen, Monmouth County
Manasquan Reservoir is managed by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority and provides drinking water for residents of Monmouth and Ocean counties.

WANAQUE RESERVOIR
Ringwood, Wanaque, Passaic County
Wanaque Reservoir is managed by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission and provides drinking water for residents of northeast New Jersey, including Essex, Passaic, and Hudson counties.

SOUTH BRANCH ROCKAWAY CREEK
Clinton, Lebanon, Readington, Hunterdon County
South Branch Rockaway Creek is located in Hunterdon County in the Raritan Watershed. The headwaters of the creek are in Clinton Township, while the creek flows in an eastward direction through Lebanon Borough and Readington Township meeting the North Branch of the Rockaway River just north of Route 22. The portion upgraded to C1 classification includes the headwaters to Lake Cushetunk, including all tributaries.

SIDNEY BROOK
Clinton, Union, Franklin, Hunterdon County
Sidney Brook is located in Hunterdon County in the Raritan Watershed. A headwater stream with high water quality, the brook flows through portions of Clinton, Union and Franklin townships. The portion upgraded to C1 classification includes the headwaters to the brook's confluence with South Branch Raritan River, including all tributaries.

FLAT BROOK
Walpack, Sussex County
Nestled within the rural landscape of western Sussex County, the Flat Brook watershed is one of the most expansive, ecologically intact, high water quality stream systems in the state. The portion upgraded to C1 classification flows from the Flatbrook-Roy Wildlife Management Area boundary to the Delaware River.

PEQUEST RIVER
Liberty, Mansfield, Warren County
Pequest River and Beaver Run are high quality watersheds that feature an excellent example of calcareous wetlands and important wildlife habitat. The two portions upgraded to C1 classification include the segment from the Lehigh and Hudson River railway bridge to the northern boundary of the Pequest Wildlife Management Area and the segment from the upstream boundary of the Pequest Wildlife Management Area to the downstream boundary.

ASSISCUNK CREEK
Springfield, Mansfield, Burlington County
Surrounded by farmland and bordered by a rich floodplain of oak and maple-forested swamp, vernal pools, and marshes, the Assiscunk Creek has high water quality and contains important wildlife habitat. The portion upgraded to C1 classification includes the headwaters to the confluence with Barkers Brook, including all tributaries.

BEAVER BROOK
Clinton, Hunterdon County
Monmouth County
Beaver Brook is located in Annandale in the Raritan River watershed. The portion upgraded to C1 classification includes the Beaver Avenue bridge downstream to the lowermost I-78 bridge.

NJ WATERSHED AMBASSADORS READY TO SERVE THEIR WATERSHED COMMUNITIES

Are you interested in learning about volunteer monitoring techniques? Are you looking for an exciting environmental presentation for your classroom or community group? Do you want to know more about your watershed? The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program can help you.

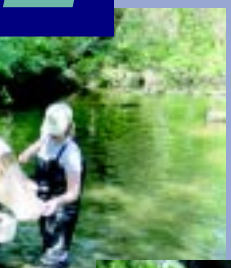
The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors program is a community-oriented AmeriCorps program hosted by the NJDEP Division of Watershed Management. Through this program, an AmeriCorps member is placed in watershed management areas across the state, ready to serve their watershed community.

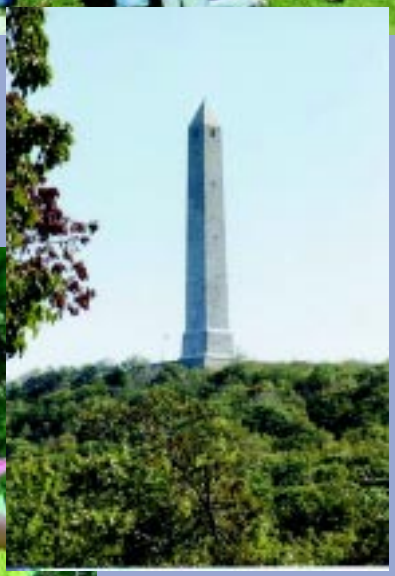
Watershed Ambassadors monitor the rivers of New Jersey through River Assessments and Biological Assessments volunteer monitoring programs. The members also train community volunteers in these two volunteer monitoring techniques. Members are available to make presentations to community organizations and schools, which provide information about water and watershed issues in New Jersey.

The NJDEP Division of Watershed Management began hosting this AmeriCorps program in September 2000. AmeriCorps is a national service initiative that was started in 1993 and is the domestic Peace Corps. After two weeks of intensive training in volunteer monitoring techniques, watershed management issues and presentation skills, AmeriCorps members were placed with a host agency in their home watershed management area.

To schedule a presentation, please contact the New Jersey Watershed Ambassador for your area. For more information about the program, please contact Christine Hirt, Program Manager at 609-777-1406 or christine.hirt@dep.state.nj.us

Watershed Ambassadors Program





WMA 1 - Upper Delaware
Eric Watkins - (908) 735-0733

WMA 2 - Walkill
Janet Creegan - (973) 579-6998

WMA 3 - Pompton, Pequannock, Wanaque & Ramapo
MacKenzie Hall - (973) 299-7592

WMA 4 - Lower Passaic & Saddle River
Kimberly Daly - (973) 817-5739

WMA 5 - Hackensack, Hudson & Pascack
Tara Casella - (201) 968-0808

WMA 6 - Upper & Mid Passaic, Whippany & Rockaway
Elyssa Serrilli - (973) 966-1900

WMA 7 - Arthur Kill
Aimee Petkus - (908) 527-4032

WMA 8 - North & South Branch Raritan
John Neuberger - (908) 234-1852

WMA 9 - Lower Raritan, South River & Lawrence
Jessica Johnson - (732) 745-3479

WMA 10 - Millstone
Beth Hartmaier - (609) 737-3735

WMA 11 - Central Delaware Tributaries
Dana Coyle - (609) 883-9500

WMA 12 - Monmouth
Jennifer Dufine - (732) 683-2287

WMA 13 - Barnegat Bay
Brian Senna - (732) 349-1152

WMA 14 - Mullica
Tammy West - (609) 652-1665

WMA 15 - Great Egg Harbor
Lisa Merman - (609) 272-6997

WMA 16 - Cape May
Brad Rosenthal - (609) 465-1082

WMA 17 - Maurice, Salem, Cohansey
Christina Steward - (856) 453-2169

WMA 18 - Lower Delaware
Joshua Kahan - (856) 614-3657

WMA 19 - Rancocas Creek
Jenna Wernham - (856) 983-5665

WMA 20 - Assiscunk, Crosswicks & Doctors
Tan Do - (609) 586-9603

NEW PRIVATE WELL TESTING ACT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2002

Effective September 14, 2002, the Private Well Testing Act now requires that certain wells be tested as a condition of each contract for sale of real property. The Attorney General's Office has given formal agency advice that the law applies to real estate transactions where the sales contract is executed on or after the effective date of the statute, September 14. Thus, private well testing is not required by the statute for real estate transactions already under contract when the statute goes into effect.

However, the Department of Environmental Protection has always recommended that people have their well water tested once a year or upon the sale of the property. People may choose to have their wells tested because of the benefit of learning important information about the quality of the water that they and their families are drinking.

The new law requires landlords of certain properties to test certain private drinking-water wells and to provide a written copy of the results to tenants.

What does the Private Well Testing Act, N.J.S.A. 58:12A-26 et seq. (PWTA) require?

The PWTA requires that, when property with certain types of private drinking water wells is sold or rented, the well water must be tested for contaminants. The results of the water testing must be reviewed by both buyer and seller, or in the case of a rental, by the renter.

What types of properties are subject to the testing requirement?

The Act covers SALES of two types of properties, and RENTALS of other properties. Testing is required for the following:

· SALE of any property that gets its drinking water from a private well located on the property, and
· SALE of any property that gets its drinking water from a well that has less than 15 service connections or that does not regularly serve an average of at least 25 people daily at least 60 days out of each year.
· RENTAL of any property that gets its drinking water from a private well that isn't required to be tested under to any other State law.

What contaminants must the well water be tested for?

That depends on where you live. All wells must be tested for the following contaminants: total coliform bacteria, iron, maganese, pH, all volatile organic compounds (VOCs) with established Maximum Contaminant Levels, nitrate, and lead. If total coliform bacteria are detected, a test must also be conducted for fecal coliform or E. coli.

If the well water does not meet one or more of the drinking water standards, does that mean it's not safe to drink?

Not necessarily. Some of the standards are based on esthetics (secondary), while some are based on long or short-term health effects (primary). For example, high levels of iron in the water are generally not dangerous but do give the water an unpleasant taste. So the fact that water tests above the standard for iron would not indicate that the water is unsafe.

If the well water does not meet one or more of the drinking water standards, can the property sale be completed? Does the water have to be treated before the property is sold or rented?

The law does not prohibit the sale of the property if the water fails one or more drinking water standards. In fact, the law is silent on what happens if the water does not meet drinking water standards. The law mainly ensures that all parties to the real estate deal know the facts about the well water so that they can make well-informed decisions. Of course, it is possible that mortgage companies or local health departments may require treatment of the water in some cases.

More information is available on the Department's web page, www.state.nj.us/dep which is designed to assist New Jersey residents and businesses to comply with the act and related DEP regulations and to understand the purpose of well-water testing and analytical results. Please revisit this site often. It will be updated with new information.

McGreevey Takes Action to Control Sprawl and Protect State's Water Resources

Announces Greater Protection of Metedeconk River and Lifts Drought Emergency

Ending New Jersey's ten-month drought emergency, Governor McGreevey today reaffirmed his commitment to protect New Jersey's waterways and drinking water supplies and announced plans to increase protection of the Metedeconk River, a key drinking water supply in the State's shore region.

"Today I am lifting New Jersey's statewide drought emergency, but while the short-term crisis is over, the long-term threat still remains," said Governor McGreevey. "I am asking all New Jerseyans to join me in the battle to protect our waterways, to end crisis-to-crisis management of our most precious resource, and to stop the overdevelopment and sprawl that threaten to destroy both our water supplies and our quality of life."

Joined by Senator Andrew Ciesla, Brick Township Mayor Joseph Scarpelli, Environmental Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell and other local and environmental leaders, Governor McGreevey announced that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will work with mayors from communities within the Metedeconk watershed to identify sections of the river for Category One (C1) designation - the highest level of water quality protection. C1 designation protects waterways from any discharge that produces a measurable change in the existing quality of the water.

"I applaud Governor McGreevey and Commissioner Campbell for their efforts to protect our state's watersheds and their vital ecosystems," said Mayor Scarpelli. "Since it serves as the source of 75% of our drinking water, I am extremely pleased that the Metedeconk River will gain C1 status."

"The Metedeconk River, a vital drinking water source for many families, will be the 23rd body of water that my administration proposes for increased protection," said McGreevey, "but we are only beginning our battle to protect New Jersey's air, water and quality of life against sprawl."

"By stopping sprawl on the Metedeconk River, we protect a major drinking water supply for future generations. This is just the latest demonstration of the Governor's commitment to smart growth - and we know there is more to come," said Amy Goldsmith, State Director of New Jersey Environmental Federation.

"Under the Governor's direction, the DEP is setting tougher standards to protect New Jersey's waterways - particularly those that provide our families with drinking water," said DEP Commissioner Campbell. "The Metedeconk River represents an exceptional water supply and will be critical to meeting the area's water supply demands in the future."

The Metedeconk River serves as a drinking water source for more than 100,000 residents and will serve significantly more people in the coming years. In addition to meeting current water supply needs, the Metedeconk River will support a new billion-gallon reservoir to meet anticipated future water demands in Brick Township and surrounding communities. The completion of the reservoir is scheduled for early 2004.

The specific boundaries of the C1 designation will be achieved by determining how best to ensure a safe and plentiful drinking water source and allow for smart growth within the affected towns.

Last March, the Governor declared New Jersey to be in a statewide drought emergency as the state ended the driest six-month period since 1895. Over the last ten months, New Jersey continued to experience some of the most erratic precipitation patterns in history with groundwater levels reaching record lows.

The recent, abnormally high rainfall has replenished New Jersey's surface waters and increased groundwater levels. However, goundwater levels in the southern part of the state remain below normal. Approximately half of New Jersey's drinking water comes from the groundwater.

New Jersey coastal south and southwest drought regions will be placed under a drought warning and DEP will maintain the authority to manage water resources in the interest of the public.

For more information on New Jersey's current reservoir and groundwater levels, please visit the DEP drought website at www.njdrought.org.

STREAM TEAMS

During the past year New Jersey citizens interested in protecting streams and lakes had the opportunity to attend free Visual Survey programs across the state. River Assessments are monitoring education programs of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection that train volunteers to conduct detailed visual assessments of their local waterways. Its purpose is to give residents, college students, school groups and watershed association members a simple system for gathering data about water condition, stream bank erosion, outfall pipes, riparian or streamside forest buffers, and more. A corollary program, Biological Assessments, provides training in conducting assessments of aquatic macroinvertebrate communities - the insects, worms and mollusks which are indicators of water quality.

In the Lower Delaware Tributaries of Watershed Management Area 18, the River Assessments program was especially successful. One hundred thirty adult volunteers, plus a number of children, attended a series of seven programs held between December 2001 and June 2002. These were organized and conducted collaboratively by NJDEP, the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), which served as the coordinating agency for WMA 18 watershed management planning.

Training events were presented at sites across the ten watersheds in WMA 18. Municipal buildings, local schools, a firehouse and a church hall were utilized for the sessions held in three of the four counties within Area 18 - Burlington, Camden and Gloucester. Rowan University also provided a site at its College of Engineering. The first training was held at the West Deptford Municipal Building in the Big Timber Creek watershed on December 1, 2001 and drew mostly members of the Area 18 Public Advisory Committee (PAC). From that point on, sessions were promoted to the general public of each community in which the training was held. All sessions consisted of an indoor presentation that included information on watershed management, basic stream ecology and the River Assessments protocol, followed by an outdoor field experience. Promotion consisted of flyers that were mailed to streamside residents when such mailing lists existed, or to lists of groups and individuals culled locally. Flyers were also distributed to libraries and other public buildings and, when help was available, were posted in supermarkets and distributed to a school. Some press coverage in the form of calendar listings in local papers was also obtained.

A decision was made at the start of the River Assessments series planning that the goals were two-fold. The first and primary goal was to get local residents, including families and students, to go to their local stream and look at it. The assumption was that people will only take an interest in the condition of their local waterway if they know it exists, and if they actually observe it. Promotion of the program targeted this group and suggested they “take a walk and see what you find”, that they “nourish their spirit”, “look for wildlife” and “enjoy the water”.

The other main goal - that of developing a corps of knowledgable citizens who will collect much-needed data on specific conditions - was considered to be somewhat secondary. This resulted from recognition of the realities of developing volunteer monitoring programs. In general, only a percentage of newly trained volunteers will actually be able to carry out the objectives of any program, and building volunteer numbers is a long-term process. The more people that are trained, however, the more the program itself benefits. In the case of River Assessments, the training both spread the word about watershed management and also gave individuals

Citizens conduct a visual assessment of the Cooper River as part of a River Assessments training for Watershed Management Area 18.

information on streams and the impacts of nonpoint source pollution and development.

Additional benefits of the training series included the opportunity for individuals who are already involved with watershed management at a grass roots level to interact with each other, and to strengthen existing connections. Promotion of the program involved a local sponsor - a group or individual - who helped publicize the training event. The Camden County Environmental Commission, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the Federal Gloucester County Watersheds all served in this role, as did a member of the Chews Landing Fire Company. In addition, the Watershed Association for the particular stream was invited to take an active part in the session itself and to inform participants of the existence of the local group. The Pompeston Creek Watershed, Pennsuaken Creek Watershed, Cooper River Watershed, Newton Creek Watershed, Raccoon Creek Watershed and Oldman's Creek Watershed were all helpful with promotion, including mail and email lists, and each had a representative and/or literature present at the relevant training session.

The Stream Team partners NJDEP, DVRPC and AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program gained valuable insight from the numerous evaluations that were collected. Beyond the fact that it is possible to get a group of over a hundred volunteers trained and started on surveying in half a year, we learned that program lengths that ran from 9am to 1pm, rather than a whole day, resulted in more people attending . In order to make sure people knew where they were going and to increase their commitment to conducting the assessment, subwatershed maps based on HUC 14 (hydrologic unit codes) GIS (geographic information system) coverages were provided, on which reaches of streams were delineated with a unique code. Thus an individual could select their piece of the local waterway at the end of the training session, and would have their name attached to that reach. Finally, fieldwork was made as fun as possible. By allowing individuals to go through data sheets in the field on a "practice" reach, we were able to resolve questions quickly and help the volunteers to gain confidence in their ability to survey by themselves. Several children accompanied adult participants and planned to go into the field with them. One group that resulted from this "family-friendly" approach consisted of two adults and their three grandchildren forming their own Stream Team!

Follow-up to the training was considered critical, as it always is for volunteer programs. This involved mailing trainees an "official-looking" badge and a notification/permission letter they could provide to landowners. Participants were also contacted directly through email and phone by the Watershed Ambassador, who joined individuals in the field when asked. Problems such as lack of confidence, need for a partner, or for more training on-site were resolved through this approach and helped volunteers to do the actual assessment.

As the data sheets are starting to come in and are put into a database, a more detailed picture is building of problems and opportunities in Area 18 streams. Additional uses of the data will hopefully be implemented by the state. A GIS coverage that is accessible on the internet would be an excellent way to disseminate the data gathered from WMA 18 and around the state. Although Watershed Management is undergoing a direction change, continued partnering within WMA 18 at a grassroots level and continuing the River Assessment training program is still a real possibility. The information such a group can gather is certainly needed. The value of the group as the eyes and ears of watershed management is essential.

By collecting data about their local waterways, citizens become more knowledgable about their watersheds and the impacts that nonpoint source pollution and development have on them.

Suzanne McCarthy is a Senior Planner for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and was the Coordinator for Watershed Management in the Lower Delaware Tributaries Watershed Management Area 18.

Chris Trainor is the 2001-2002 AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador for the Lower Delaware Tributaries Watershed Management Area 18.

Project WET Water Education Day 2002

by Colleen Gould, NJ State Coordinator, Project WET

On September 26th, more than 2,500 New Jersey students celebrated the wonders of water at their school's Make A Splash with Project WET Water Festival. The NJ Project WET program receives $3,000 from the Poland Springs Bottled Water Company (Perrier Group of America a.k.a. Nestles Water) to sponsor water celebrations on National Water Education Day every year. NJ Project WET has developed a well rounded Water Festival Grant Program open to any teacher who has attended a WET Workshop. This September, several schools throughout New Jersey hosted a water festival. Watershed Partnership for New Jersey (WPNJ) Members were invited to participate and to set up a learning station about their watershed. It was a great opportunity to make a difference and reach our future water users. Each festival had several learning stations and included parents, community volunteers, local drinking and wastewater facilities, and NJ Watershed Ambassadors. In May, Project WET also sponsors another series of Water Festivals as part of Watershed Awareness Month observances.

For more details about the Festival Program, please call Colleen Gould, the New Jersey Project WET Coordinator, at (732) 292-4672.

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